

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 132

April 7, 1995, 8:14 p.m.
Page S-5380 Temp. Record

DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL-RESCISSIONS/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Assistance and Rescission Act . . . H.R. 1158. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 99-0

SYNOPSIS: As amended and passed, H.R. 1158, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Assistance and Rescissions Act, will provide \$6.7 billion in emergency appropriations for disaster assistance, and will rescind \$15.047 billion appropriated for various Departments and agencies (as scored by the Congressional Budget Office, based on an assumed enactment date of May 31, 1995). The discretionary spending caps will be lowered by any amount equal to the net savings that are in this bill (see vote No. 119). The bill will also provide debt relief to Jordan. Details are provided below.

Disaster assistance:

- \$6.7 billion will be appropriated for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), \$1.9 billion of which will be for fiscal year (FY) 1995 for disaster relief, and \$4.8 billion of which will be placed in a new FEMA disaster relief fund, to be available in FY 1996 only to the extent the President makes a specific request and designates such amount as emergency spending.

Rescissions will include the following:

- Agriculture: \$163.2 million, with no reductions of appropriations for the Women, Infants, and Children Program, and with an increase for the Market Promotion Program (see vote No. 130);
- Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary: \$295.2 million, including a \$3.1 million cut in appropriations for Hollings Centers (see vote No. 129);
- Energy and Water: \$244.5 million, including a \$13 million rescission of funds for environmental restoration (the Dole substitute amendment lowered this rescission by \$100 million from the originally proposed \$113 million, and a commensurate \$100 million reduction in the environmental restoration account was then made on the defense supplemental conference report);
- Foreign Operations: \$125 million;
- Interior: \$271.4 million;

(See other side)

YEAS (99)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (54 or 100%)		Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchison	Akaka	Hollings				Mikulski- ^{2AY}
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Baucus	Inouye				
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Johnston				
Bond	Kassebaum	Bingaman	Kennedy				
Brown	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kerrey				
Burns	Kyl	Bradley	Kerry				
Campbell	Lott	Breaux	Kohl				
Chafee	Lugar	Bryan	Lautenberg				
Coats	Mack	Bumpers	Leahy				
Cochran	McCain	Byrd	Levin				
Cohen	McConnell	Conrad	Lieberman				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Daschle	Moseley-Braun				
Craig	Nickles	Dodd	Moynihan				
D'Amato	Packwood	Dorgan	Murray				
DeWine	Pressler	Exon	Nunn				
Dole	Roth	Feingold	Pell				
Domenici	Santorum	Feinstein	Pryor				
Faircloth	Shelby	Ford	Reid				
Frist	Simpson	Glenn	Robb				
Gorton	Smith	Graham	Rockefeller				
Gramm	Snowe	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Grassley	Specter	Heflin	Simon				
Gregg	Stevens		Wellstone				
Hatch	Thomas						
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

- Labor, Health and Human Services: \$2.340 billion, including \$1.309 billion for training and employment services and \$55.7 million of funds appropriated for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (see vote No. 131 for related debate);
- Legislative Branch: \$25.8 million;
- Military Construction: \$161.8 million;
- Transportation: \$2.371 billion, including \$2 billion for grants-in-aid for airports;
- Treasury, \$1.798 billion, including \$1.779 billion for courthouse and other Federal buildings projects on which construction has not yet started (see vote Nos. 122 and 124);
- Veterans, Housing and Urban Development: \$6.908 billion, including \$4.771 billion for assisted housing and \$1.242 billion for water infrastructure; and
- Savings from travel: \$342.5 million.

An impasse on the bill was resolved with the adoption by voice vote of a compromise amendment. That amendment added back \$834.7 million in funding for specific social programs that the Hatfield amendment would have rescinded. Those add-backs included the following: \$35 million for WIC; \$25 million for the School-to-Work Program; \$42 million for Head Start; \$105 million for Americorps; \$36 million for Community Development Banks; and \$8.8 million for immigration education. Offsets of \$1.647 billion were provided, including \$700 million from airport improvements and \$550 million from HUD section 8 Project Reserves.

Miscellaneous:

- \$275 million in debt relief will be provided to Jordan;
- Salvage timber sales will be expedited (see vote No. 121 for related debate);
- it is the sense of Congress that Congress should not adopt legislation that will increase the number of hungry/homeless children;
- it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should act quickly to make it impossible to avoid paying taxes by relinquishing one's citizenship (see vote No. 128); and
- No new wetlands determinations will be made in 1995 without the consent of the owner or operator of the land.

Those favoring final passage contended:

The President requested \$1.4 billion in rescissions; the House-passed bill will rescind \$17.2 billion; the Senate bill started at \$13.3 billion, but now, after being amended, is at more than \$15 billion in rescissions. Senators may not have gotten everything they wanted with this bill, but it will still provide for a substantial amount of deficit reduction by rescinding far more than will be provided in disaster assistance. In contrast, President Clinton's proposal would have added billions of dollars to the deficit.

This bill will rescind 1 percent of the amount of Federal spending previously approved by Congress for fiscal year 1995. The rescissions will come from one area of the budget, appropriated accounts, and will come when half the year is already over. Further, all the savings that will accrue will be applied to deficit reduction because the budget authority spending caps will be lowered by the amount of the savings in this bill. Of the \$6.7 billion in disaster aid that will be provided, only \$1.9 billion will be to respond to disasters during this fiscal year. The remaining \$4.8 billion will be used to establish a disaster relief spending fund.

Some Senators are not totally pleased with specific proposed rescissions in this bill. Other Senators, particularly Democratic Senators, are pleased that many of the proposed reductions in welfare and other social programs were dropped during negotiations. These differences are minor, though, when viewed in the light of the overall effect of this bill. This bill will take another important step on the long road to balancing the Federal budget, so we are delighted to give it our support.

While favoring final passage, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

A brief recap of Democratic behavior on this bill is in order. First, the Minority Leader offered for himself and other Democratic Senators a substitute amendment to add-back \$1.3 billion of proposed rescissions in social spending that were in the Hatfield amendment, and to pay for it by canceling \$1.3 billion of the disaster aid. Each of those add-backs were for programs that would still have received more money in fiscal year 1995 after the Hatfield amendment rescissions than they received in fiscal year 1994. In other words, the Hatfield amendment did not reduce spending below last year's level for any of these social programs; all it did was cut the amount of increased spending. Republicans offered a substitute to that amendment that would instead have provided for an additional \$1.3 billion in deficit reduction. At that point, negotiations began to try to reach a compromise. A compromise was finally reached that in our opinion was one-sided in favor of the Democrats. In general, the Democrats argued for increased social spending, and Republicans argued for greater deficit reduction in return. The compromise agreement provided for \$834.7 million more in social spending and \$1.647 billion in offsets. On its face, it appears that this result was fair, but when one looks at the outlay rates for the social spending and the offsets one understands the problem. The accounts for which funding was restored have outlay rates as high as 80 percent, while the offsets are from accounts with annual outlay rates as low as 1 percent. Three-fourths of the offsets are in two accounts, HUD section 8 housing and airport improvement, that will be replenished within 6 months. If we have not made ourselves clear, the effect of the agreement will be to spend an extra \$800 million without providing any real offsets.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the bill.